

AGENDA ITEM: 15

SUBJECT:

Following are proposed permits for consideration of adoption. All agencies and dischargers concur or have offered no comments

BOARD ACTION:

Consideration of NPDES Permit Renewal, Amendment and Cease and Desist Order

BACKGROUND:

a. CITY OF ALTURAS, CITY OF ALTURAS WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT, MODOC COUNTY

The City of Alturas (Discharger) is the owner and operator of the City of Alturas Wastewater Treatment Plant (Facility), a publicly owned treatment works located in Modoc County, California. The Facility provides sewerage services for the City of Alturas and serves a population of approximately 2,500. The Facility provides secondary treatment for up to 0.5 million gallons per day (MGD). Secondary-treated, disinfected wastewater from the Facility is discharged to the Pit River, a water of the United States.

Discharge from the Facility is currently regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2014-0033, issued by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) on 27 March 2014 and Time Schedule Order R5-2014-0034-01, amended by the Central Valley Water Board on 18 August 2015.

An Order is proposed to renew the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit along with an accompanying proposed Cease and Desist Order. The proposed NPDES permit includes new or updated effluent limitations for arsenic, bis (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate, copper, zinc, aluminum, ammonia, nitrate plus nitrite, and electrical conductivity. The proposed NPDES permit will remove existing effluent limitations for total dissolved solids because the discharge does not demonstrate reasonable potential to cause or contribute to in-stream exceedances of the applicable water quality objectives for this constituent. The proposed Cease and Desist Order includes a compliance schedule to meet final effluent limitations in the NPDES permit for copper, zinc, total coliform, and aluminum, and includes interim effluent limits until the compliance schedule is complete.

The tentative Orders were issued for a 30-day public comment period on 13 December 2019 with comments due by 13 January 2020. No comments were received.

b. CITY OF COLUSA, WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT, COLUSA COUNTY

The City of Colusa (Discharger) is the owner and operator of the Colusa Wastewater Treatment Plant (Facility), a publicly owned treatment works located at 2820 Will S. Green Road, Colusa, California. The Facility serves a population of approximately 6,000 and is authorized to discharge an average dry weather flow of 0.7 million

gallons per day of tertiary treated disinfected effluent to an unnamed tributary to Powell Slough, a water of the United States. Discharges from the Facility are currently regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2016-0062-01. An order is proposed to amend the NPDES permit related to the temperature receiving water limitations and groundwater monitoring requirements.

The receiving water is a constructed agricultural drain, not a natural waterway. Therefore, it is not possible to ascertain compliance with the temperature receiving water limitation, which prohibits the natural receiving water temperature to be increased by more than 5 degrees Fahrenheit. The proposed Order amends the NPDES Permit to remove the upstream receiving water temperature monitoring because it does not characterize natural receiving water temperature and requires the Discharger to perform a study to determine appropriate temperature receiving water limitations that will ensure the aquatic life beneficial uses of the receiving water are protected.

Regarding the groundwater monitoring requirements, the Discharger recently completed installation of five additional wells and requested the groundwater monitoring frequency be reduced to quarterly due to the high cost of the monitoring. Considering cost of compliance, the proposed Order reduces groundwater monitoring frequency from once per month to once per quarter, which is sufficient to characterize groundwater quality and evaluate compliance with the permit.

The tentative Order was issued for a 30-day public comment period on 22 October 2019 with comments due by 21 November 2019. The only public comments received were from the Discharger. The proposed Order has been modified to address the comments; details are provided in the Staff Response to Comments document included in the agenda package. The Discharger supports adoption of the amending Order.

c. CITY OF STOCKTON, REGIONAL WASTEWATER CONTROL FACILITY, SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

The City of Stockton (Discharger) owns and operates the Regional Wastewater Control Facility (Facility) that provides sewerage service for the City of Stockton, Port of Stockton and surrounding unincorporated areas of San Joaquin County and serves a population of approximately 350,000. The Facility is currently authorized to discharge up to 55 million gallons per day (MGD) of tertiary-treated municipal wastewater to the San Joaquin River, within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) have classified this discharge a major discharge.

Discharges from the Facility are currently regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2014-0070-03, issued by the Central Valley Water Board on 6 June 2014. An Order is proposed to renew the NPDES permit. The proposed permit includes new or updated effluent limitations for ammonia, bromoform, carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand, chlorodibromomethane, chlorpyrifos, chronic toxicity, diazinon, dichlorobromomethane, nitrate plus nitrite, and total suspended solids. The proposed permit will not remove any existing effluent limitations.

The tentative Order was issued for a 30-day public comment period on 13 December 2019 with comments due by 13 January 2020. The only public comments received were from the Discharger. Central Valley Water Board staff have modified the proposed Order to address the Discharger's comments. Additionally, some Staff Revisions have been made to the proposed Order. Details are provided in the Staff Response to Comments document included in the agenda package.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the NPDES Permits

REVIEWS:

Management Review:	
Legal Review:	DL
Date:	20 February 2020
Board Meeting Street Address:	11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200
Board Meeting City, State, Zip:	Rancho Cordova, CA 95670